

Dear Jim,

4/29/74

While catching my breath from some brief but heavy work and during the time Lesa is mostly likely to call if over the weekend he ran into something about which he'd want to consult, short response to your 4/23/74, here today, with interesting, unread enclosures. (The reading folder is fattening again!)

On what you call my "miseries": I am being cautious. The hospital doctor had wanted me to stay in bed over the weekend but that was the most uncomfortable position. I compromised by doing nothing heavy at all, no real physical work at all, either. Then on Monday I began easing into it again. With what I do I remain cautious. I have just removed one in a long stretch of flagstones that are dangerous for Lil, who has a trick knee. I used a digging iron to stand it up. When I realized on first lifting it that it weighed 150 lbs or more I put it down and walked it to where I'm storing them for later removal. I filled the hole in with quartz I had to break with a heavy sledge. So, I carried and broke but two at a time. Where I'm digging into what was once the driveway I have two buckets, one for the smaller stones to fill in around the cracks of the large ones I break. I don't fill either now although I can carry both if they are full. And when I had this one hole back to level and smoothed, I stopped outside work, perhaps for the say, depending on the heat (climbing!).

We have a jalousied porch, with storm windows. I should have started taking them out at least a week ago. I've removed none because of the caution. I plan to take them out one or two at a time, to the news.

Food? Too much! I put 10 lbs on over the winter. When Lil is working regularly, we eat less carefully but generally in close to balance. I never take time to make a salad or prepare anything. If I lunch it is usually cheese and crackers or leftovers. We can't afford any meat but we get adequate protein.

Because I do believe that at least a fair amount has to be of emotional origin I have done two things: made an appointment with the medical service to which we pay too much for a consultation on this; and asked the local doctor to whom we go in emergencies to familiarize himself with these possibilities. He has given me a note to deliver to our service (hardly the word!) when I am there Thursday, asking for the records.

No superman stuff. I have carried a few locusts that were a bit much, but not continuously. It is only that I had no alternatives. And I have sold them, which meant I had to have them all in one place for examination. And once I realized that my body would take more sleep, I have not stinted. I have slept more the past week than any I can recall in decades.

You are quite right to suggest emotional involvement. I may not be aware of all of it but that of which I am aware is too much. I'm not ignoring it.

I am aware that the weariness that increased suddenly can be psychosomatic. But I am also aware that just a few weeks ago I could shoulder a 200 lb post and carry it 500 feet. Yet these days sometimes I shuffle more than walk. So, I'm having checks made.

We feel as you do about Mr. ~~Mao~~ Maio (his spelling). And your history on the dolls is on target, for there is a strong suggestion of the Japanese, particularly in one whose features are more Japanese than Chinese. (Should be spelling his name "Miao?" He seems to pronounce it "May-o.2")

Check on 6/20 chron and many thanks. STM will be alert to anything that may be put together in another source.

Not in shape to really start thinking straight and hard on new type WG book. I'll need and not have a research assistant because Lil won't be able to do it. Maybe a student will turn up. Of the locals I've met all are or were married, two have kids and the third is unwell. The frail one needs a paying job.